

Preparation of xylylenediamine

Abstract

- 5 A process for preparing xylylenediamine, comprising the steps of
ammoxidizing xylene to phthalonitrile by contacting the vaporous product of this
ammoxidation stage directly with a liquid organic solvent (quench),
removing products having a boiling point higher than phthalonitrile (high boilers) from
the resulting quench solution or suspension and
- 10 hydrogenating the phthalonitrile,
wherein the organic solvent used for the quench is N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP), after
the removal of the high boilers and before the hydrogenation, there is a partial or
complete removal of the NMP and/or of products having a boiling point lower than
phthalonitrile (low boilers) and
- 15 the phthalonitrile for the hydrogenation step is dissolved or suspended in an organic
solvent or in liquid ammon